

Ceramic Vocabulary Worksheet: General Information

The term “pottery” refers to any type of ceramic ware that is made from clay and hardened by fire.

The three main types of pottery are:

1. **Earthenware**: is fired at a lower temperature than that at which its particles fuse.
2. **Stoneware**: is fired to a temperature at which the body becomes vitrified (glassy) by the particles fusing together.
3. **Porcelain**: is a translucent clay body fired at a high temperature. White and hard. First developed in China in the 7th century.

There are five methods of working with clay, all of which will be used in this class.

1

Pinch

2

Coil

3

Slab

4

Molds

5

Potter's
Wheel

There are three stages of ceramic dryness.

1. Plastic: Wet, fresh, manageable
2. Leather hard: Some moisture remains, clay holds its formed shape. Still accepts additional parts.
3. Bone Dry: No moisture left; chalky dry. Must be at this stage to be fired.

There are three stages of Ceramic ware

1. Greenware: Bone dry ware that is ready to be fired.
2. Bisqueware: Ware that has been fired once.
3. Glazeware: Ware that has glaze applied and is waiting to be glaze fired.

General Vocabulary

- ♦ **Slip**: A suspension of clay in water used for casting molds and attaching parts.
- ♦ **Plasticity**: The ability of damp clay to yield under pressure
- ♦ **Pyrometric Cones**: Small pyramids of ceramic material formulated to bend over and melt at a certain temperature.

General Vocabulary (Continued)

- ♦ **Grog**: Small particles of fired clay added to the clay body to help in drying, to add texture, and to reduce shrinkage and warpage.
- ♦ **Kiln**: A furnace built of heat-resistant material for firing pottery or sculpture.
- ♦ **Glaze**: A coating that has been melted onto a clay surface by the use of heat.
- ♦ **Underglaze**: Colored slip that is used under a glaze to create decorative effects.

General Vocabulary (Continued)

- ♦ **Foot**: The base of a piece of pottery, usually left unglazed.
- ♦ **Template**: A pattern used as a guide for shaping clay.
- ♦ **Wedging**: A method of kneading clay to expel the air, get rid of lumps, and prepare a homogenous material.
- ♦ **Throwing**: Forming objects on the potter's wheel.

Tools

◆ Rib

◆ Smoothing Tool

◆ Needle Tool

◆ Fettling Knife

◆ Loop Tool

◆ Clean-Up Tool

